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DUKE McCALL WAS INFLUENTIAL BAPTIST LEADER

DUKE KIMBROUGH McCALL, a 1935 Furman graduate who became one of the most influential leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), died April 2 in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. He was 98.

From 1951-82, McCall was president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. His career also included service as chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and president of the Baptist World Alliance. He held honorary degrees from five institutions, including Furman.

McCall was known for encouraging tolerance and cooperation among all denominations. Chris Caldwell, who served Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville after McCall, told the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, "He had a broader view of the church. He was a larger than life figure, a charming gentleman."

While McCall dealt with occasional controversies both from within and outside Southern Seminary during his tenure as president, the *Courier-Journal* described his years at the school as a time of "unprecedented growth" in terms of endowment, enrollment and academic expansion. He was an advocate for African Americans, and in the early 1960s he invited Martin Luther King, Jr., to speak on campus, despite the segregationist views of many Southern Baptists.

Writing for the Associated Baptist Press, Bill Leonard of the School of Divinity at Wake Forest University said that McCall "bridged multiple generations of Baptist life nationally and globally. In some ways he was the personification

of the amazing organizational success and regional strength of Southern Baptists in much of the 20th century. In other ways he represented the last of the Baptist denominationalists, a leader who both shaped and was shaped by the cultural and spiritual solidarity of America's largest denomination . . . he contributed to a denominational breadth inside the SBC. He lived long enough to see that breadth diminish, but died hoping, if not believing, that it would someday return."



McCall sided with the moderates during the battle with conservatives for control of the Southern Baptist Convention in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and narrowly lost a bid for the SBC presidency in 1982. He was later influential in the formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a moderate alternative to the SBC, but maintained cordial relations with the national convention. A lecture series, academic chair and pavilion at Southern Seminary are named in his honor.

He is survived by his wife, Winona; four sons and 10 grandchildren, several of whom attended Furman; and 14 great-grandchildren.

W. Earle Purkerson, Jr. '56, January 24, Greenwood, S.C. Earle served for a time as sports editor for the *Greenwood Index-Journal*, and he continued through the years as a contributing writer to the paper. A veteran of the U.S. Army Reserves, he retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1990 after 31 years of service. He was an announcer for Lander University sports, served on the Lander Bearcats Board of Directors, and was active in the Greenwood High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He was the author of two books, *The Boys of Phoenix Street* and *Mama's New Kitchen*.
William Fred Chapman, Jr. '57, January 6, Clinton, S.C. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and a recipient of the Purple Heart and the Silver Star. He retired from Presbyterian College in 1994, having served as academic dean for 10 years and as chair of the business department.

A strong supporter of public education, he was a former chair of the Laurens 56 School Board and a past president of the South Carolina School Boards Association and the Southern Region School Boards Association.

William Thomas Floyd Wilson '57, January 4, Greenville. Tom was a sergeant in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and received two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. After military service and graduation from Furman, he worked as a postal clerk for 30 years before retiring in 1988. He played baseball in Greenville's Textile League.

James Glenn Stewart '58, January 24, Raleigh, N.C. He was retired from American Greetings Corporation.

Sarah Moore Cring '59, January 23, Greenville.

Jimmy Carl Dixon '59, February 24, Greenville. He was a sales representative for Moorman Manufacturing, a U.S. Army veteran and a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

James Allen Edwards, Jr. '59, February 15, Greer, S.C. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran and a member of Bailey Masonic Lodge #146. He was retired from 3M Company.

Walter Glen Hughey, M.A. '60, January 18, Prague, Okla. He was retired from Anderson (S.C.) University, where he taught mathematics and served as registrar and director of admissions.

James Stephenson Putnam '60, December 13, Simpsonville, S.C. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, he went on to attend New Orleans Seminary.

Christina Looper Baker '61, January 18, Bass Harbor, Maine. She served three terms in the Maine House of Representatives in the late 1990s and early 2000s. She was known for her commitment to education, advocacy for historic preservation and support of issues affecting the state's Native Americans, including her co-sponsorship of a law that requires Maine's native history and culture to be taught in public schools. She earned a doctorate from The Union Institute and taught English and women's studies for 25 years in the University of Maine system, which awarded her the Presidential Outstanding Teaching Award in 1992. She served on the New England Board of Higher Education and was the author of *In a Generous Spirit*, a first-person biography of labor leader Myra Page, and *The Conversation Begins: Mothers and Daughters Talk About Living Feminism*, co-written with her daughter Christina.